February 22, 2022 DRAFT

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block
80 Wellington Street
OTTAWA ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

I'm writing today to express my deep concerns regarding the federal government's recent declaration of a public order emergency and invocation of the *Emergencies Act*.

During the call of First Ministers on February 14, 2022, I expressed my concern that the use of the Act, in addition to ongoing pandemic mandates, may further inflame an already volatile situation in our nation, creating more instability and divisiveness. This is an ongoing concern, as protesters continue to plan rallies and convoys across the country.

Existing policing tools and powers ought to have been fully exhausted to remove the protestors in Ottawa before resorting to the *Emergencies Act*. Indeed, other blockades in the country, such as those in Coutts, Alberta and Windsor, Ontario, were cleared without the use of the *Emergencies Act*. We believe that the use of the *Emergencies Act* is an overreach.

The federal government needs to act to begin easing divisions within the nation and lowering the temperature on divisive rhetoric as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. The federal government's mandates for cross-border truckers need to be eliminated, as they provide limited public health benefit and disrupt already strained supply chains. The federal government should also provide further clarity on the easing of federal public health measures so that Canadians can begin to return to a greater sense of normalcy in their day-to-day lives.

Unlike previous consultations on the use of the *Emergencies Act*, most recently in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government's consultation process leading up to the Act's invocation was inadequate and limited. It did not provide sufficient time or opportunity for discussion, consideration and collaboration among orders of government.

With the *Emergencies Act* now in force, we expect its use to be swift, proportionate and temporary and used only in jurisdictions that request it. We expect fulsome and healthy debate in the Houses of Parliament regarding the scope and use of the Act's powers in the coming days. This may even result in Parliament revoking the declaration of a public order emergency. We also expect transparency and accountability in monitoring the Act's use through the required establishment of a Parliamentary Review Committee and inquiry following the expiration of the public order emergency.

The Government of Saskatchewan fully supports the right to lawfully protest and acknowledges the serious problems occurring in our nation's capital. However, we do not believe that use of the *Emergencies Act* is warranted or appropriate.

Sincerely,

Scott Moe
Premier of Saskatchewan

cc: The Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
The Honourable Gord Wyant, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Saskatchewan
The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs Canada
The Honourable Chyrstia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
The Honourable Donna Harpauer, Minister of Finance Saskatchewan
The Honourable Marco Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety Canada
The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Emergency Preparedness
The Honourable Christine Tell, Minister of Corrections Policing and Public Safety Saskatchewan